

Eichmann
White Tab

25 January 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: C/EE/S

ATTENTION :

SUBJECT :

REFERENCE :

ESGA-3637

1. The subject matter in reference is interesting but not new or surprising, and like many other reports of Arab origin appears to contain greater substance than actually is there. Long before the capture of Eichmann, some three years before the end of the trail was reached in Buenos Aires, Dr. Rudolf KASTNER's wartime activities were rather thoroughly, though not entirely, exposed at a court trial in Tel Aviv. Kastner had initiated a libel case against a fellow Israeli who had accused him of making a deal with Eichmann in Hungary which resulted in the death of a million Jews. It was true that Kastner and several other leading members of the Jewish Agency who today are important members of the Israel Government did try to negotiate with Eichmann for the release of one million Jews. They were willing to pay the price but it was beyond their physical and financial capacity. Eichmann, however, in an odd moment of generosity, released the relatives and friends of the negotiators who were then granted permission to leave for Palestine. The trial became a cause celebre among the parties in opposition to Ben Gurion. Kastner was faring very badly against the attacks of the defense lawyers and is reported to have been on the verge of divulging sensational revelations when he was cruelly murdered in front of his apartment in Tel Aviv. The opposition accused the government of murdering him to prevent a revelation of the true facts; the government in turn accused the terrorist groups of having slaughtered Kastner for political reasons.

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This notorious case was heard all over the Middle East and Europe. The Egyptians undoubtedly obtained much of their information from this well-reported trial. It is not at all unlikely that [] received this material overtly from a fretting Nazi in West Germany.

2. Arabs, generally speaking, are grossly ignorant of Western affairs and notoriously inaccurate in reporting on any subject. When it concerns the Israelis, they live in a world of illusions. In reference to paragraph 2, it is most unlikely that Israel would ever accept documentation from Soviet Russia on the condition that it be used to undermine the Adenauer government, for the Israelis realize most fully that without the Adenauer government Israel would be even more vulnerable to Soviet and Arab machinations. Israel has deliberately cultivated good relations with West Germany and receives in turn enormous reparation and restitution payments. Few countries are prepared to bite the hand that feeds them.

3. During the British Mandate and World War II, before the re-establishment of the State of Israel, many Jews and Arabs were friends, mutually serving in the British Army. It is widely known that General YADIN, who had lived his entire life in Palestine, was acquainted with NASSER.

4. The only item of continuing interest in the report is the statement, if true, that the Egyptians are organizing documentation from the Nazis for a propaganda counterattack designed to confuse, if not refute, the rumored intention of the Government of Israel to link the Eichmann trial with neo-Nazism in Cairo. Headquarters would be interested in anything new on this particular activity.

[] DC/CI/SPG []

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